

who have been spoiled by a sound that, no matter where or when it is heard, is always fresh, always new, and uniquely American.

As Tony approaches his 80th birthday, he has sold more than 50 million records, he has won the praise of musicians across the spectrum, and been acknowledged by his industry for his lifetime of achievement. Yet, he continues to work, bringing enjoyment to thousands of fans each year, and winning new ones each day.

His accomplishments are not limited to just music. He is also an accomplished painter in his own right. He is a tireless advocate for Juvenile Diabetes research, and the American Cancer Society—each year he donates one of his paintings for the ACS holiday card. He has been a friend of Presidents and Heads of State, singing at the Inaugural festivities for President John F. Kennedy in 1961 and President Bill Clinton in 1993.

Tony has never been afraid to point out injustice and advocate for equality. He marched with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama, and was an activist throughout the Civil Rights Movement. Coretta Scott King, bestowing the Martin Luther King Center Award for Excellence upon Mr. Bennett in 2001, said, "Tony is not only one of America's premier performing artists, but he was a deeply committed friend and supporter of my husband and the Civil Rights Movement, and he has continued to support the efforts of the King Center to fulfill Martin's dream."

The list of accomplishments for Tony is innumerable, he has embodied the American spirit and he has lived the American dream. I could not be more pleased that the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts has chosen to honor Tony Bennett with its highest honors on December 4th, 2005. Tony is truly a credit to his Italian heritage, and to the contributions of millions of immigrant families who have made this country great.

His story is that of what is possible in America, what is great about America, and his life is the embodiment of what it means to be an American. In short, Tony Bennett is a national treasure, and it is with great pride that I speak today as his friend to say thank you for his contribution to our Democracy.

IMPORTANCE OF IMPACT AID

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Impact Aid Coalition, I rise today in strong support of the Impact Aid program.

Impact Aid provides important resources to replace lost tax dollars to school districts that include a military base, Indian land, or any type of Federal presence or activity to assist with the basic educational needs of its students. These funds improve the quality of life for our military personnel by ensuring their children receive a quality education wherever they are stationed.

Due to budget constraints, the Impact Aid program faces unique challenges. While most education programs contend with an increase in the cost per pupil each year, Impact Aid faces the additional challenge of an increasing

number of military dependents within the program—projected to dramatically increase over the next 10 years—causing the cost of fully funding Impact Aid to escalate sharply.

For example, as a result of the BRAC recommendations, over the next 4 to 5 years, the Department of Defense estimates that an additional 32,000 dependent children of military families will enter stateside public schools due to overseas base closures and realignments. Without additional funding, this tremendous increase will cause a significant change to the level of assistance to the current and future school districts serving our military children and to the services and resources the districts will be able to offer our children.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to pay attention to the critical situation our military children are facing and the further deterioration of their educational resources and services if we do not act soon. In a time of war, it is absolutely essential that we provide the necessary resources to ensure our military dependents' educational funding will be maintained.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM E. LIGHTFOOT

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I come to the house floor today to pay tribute to William E. Lightfoot, PFC, of Lexington, IL, as well as the 13 other Navy and Marine Corps airmen of Flight 19. On December 5, 1945, a five-plane squadron took off from Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station in Florida. This would be the last time anyone would see these brave men, as all five planes mysteriously vanished while flying over the Bermuda triangle. A Mariner rescue plane, comprised of 14 crew members, was sent to look for survivors but they also vanished without a trace. In all, 27 men died in this unexplainable tragedy.

To this day, no wreckage from any of the six planes has been found and no explanations have been realized. However, today, the House of Representatives approved H. Res. 500 to honor these men and recognize the 60th anniversary of the disappearance. Unfortunately, when this vote was called today, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been able, I would have voted "yes." I was a proud co-sponsor of this resolution and strongly support honoring these brave men. My heartfelt sympathy and admiration go out to Private William E. Lightfoot and his surviving family members.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, due to official business, I missed a vote on November 17, 2005. I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 500 (rollcall vote No. 597) recognizing

the 60th anniversary of the disappearance of the five naval Avenger torpedo bombers of Flight 19 and the naval Mariner rescue sent to search for Flight 19.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, due to technical problems, my vote in favor of H.J. Res. 72 on Thursday, November 17 (rollcall No. 599) was not recorded. I was, in fact, present for this vote and did vote in favor of the resolution.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the budget reconciliation process is wrong, and it must be stopped.

We must reject any cuts to critical federal safety net programs when so many Americans are experiencing hard times. They have been forced to turn to the government, as well as charities, for assistance with basic necessities.

Nine hundred thousand American families affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are relying on the Food Stamps Program to avoid hunger. Voting for this budget resolution is voting to cut food stamps for these families—and for millions of others who would otherwise go hungry.

This budget resolution boosts mandatory cuts in crucial programs, including health care and student aid, by 44 percent.

Over ten million Latinos on Medicaid will be affected by these cuts. Medicaid provides health insurance to about 50 million people in America, including 41 percent of people in poverty. We need choices that can help the 34 percent of Latinos that are uninsured.

The budget reconciliation shows how misguided Republican priorities are. Instead of helping make health care affordable, they will force families to choose between staying healthy or keeping the lights on.

The budget will slash such programs as student loans and therefore hurt hundreds of thousands of American families. And yet the GOP budget also requires \$70 billion in new tax cuts, helping mainly the wealthiest Americans.

Under the proposed cut in student loans, the typical student borrower could be forced to pay an additional \$5,800 for his or her student loans compared to under current law.

These budget cuts do nothing to ease the national budget deficit.

While Republicans claim that they are serious about deficit reduction, their reconciliation plan actually increases the deficit by \$20 billion.

Let me repeat: the two GOP reconciliation bills together will result in a \$20 billion increase in the deficit! One cuts mandatory spending by \$50 billion and the other cuts taxes by \$70 billion.